

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00324 151315Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
NEA-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 DHA-02 /084 W
-----151332Z 047673 /44
R 151224Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8891
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0324

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAU
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MEETING, LOME, FEBRUARY 22-26

REF: STATE 032906

1. SINCE THE RATSIRAKA REGIME CAME INTO POWER IN JUNE 1975, IT HAS MANIFESTED INTEREST IN ONLY A FEW OF THE SUBJECTS LISTED PARAS THREE AND FOUR REFTEL. ITS FOCAL POINT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS THE THEME "PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN", WHICH RATSIRAKA AND HIS MINISTERS REGULARLY CHAMPION SINCE MADAGASCAR IS THE LARGEST INSULAR COUNTRY IN THE AREA. ALSO, RATSIRAKA, WHOSE BASIC INTEREST IS FOREIGN RATHER THAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, CONTINUES TO SEEK A PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO GAIN THE WORLD'S ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH OF LATE HE RELUCTANTLY SPENDS MORE TIME ON DOMESTIC MATTERS. THIS SUBJECT, THEREFORE, MAY WELL BE RAISED BY THE MALAGASY, AND MAY DRAW SOME SYMPATHY FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, BUT MADAGASCAR'S MAJOR INTEREST WILL BE TO DRAW ATTENTION TOWARD THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND AWAY FROM THE SOVIET PRESENCE.

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2. ON OTHER SUBJECT, MADAGASCAR WILL MOST LIKELY FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE MOST RADICAL OAU MEMBERS, AS IT HAS DONE SINCE JUNE 1975. IT IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE THE LEAD ON ANY OF THE SUBJECTS MENTIONED REFTEL, BUT IT MAY DECIDE TO SUPPORT A LAST-DITCH STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE POLISARIO IN VIEW OF THE GDRM'S

RAPID AND WARM RECOGNITION OF THE SAHOURIAN
GOVERNMENT WHEN THE LATTER FIRST DECLARED ITS
EXISTANCE.SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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